Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2005

REMARKS

The office action of May 13, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Applicants thank the Examiner for the recognition of the allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2, 3, 4, 8 and 10. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on September 13, 2005.

Claims 2, 4-5, and 7-11 have been amended, claims 1 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 12-22 have been added. Consistent with actions proposed in the conversation of September 13, 2005 and the Office Action of May 13, 2005, Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 4, and 8 in independent form. Additionally, agreement was reached in the interview of September 13 that the rewritten claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C, §112. As such, independent claims 2, 4 and 8 are in condition for allowance as all rejections and objections have been overcome.

Amended claims 3, 5, 7, and 9-11 depend from independent claims 2, 4, and 8. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9-11 are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. Similarly, new dependent claims 12-21 also depend from independent claims 2, 4, and 8 and contain claim elements similar to the previously described dependent claims. For at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, claims 12-21 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have added new independent claim 22. Claim 22 possesses many of the features of claims previously found to have allowable subject, and for at least the same reasons, is in condition for allowance.

No new subject matter has been added and reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested

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CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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